

SPOKE

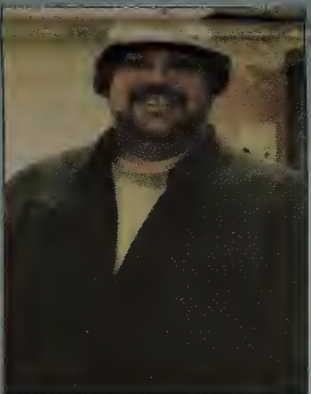
Conestoga College, Kitchener

APRIL 3, 2000

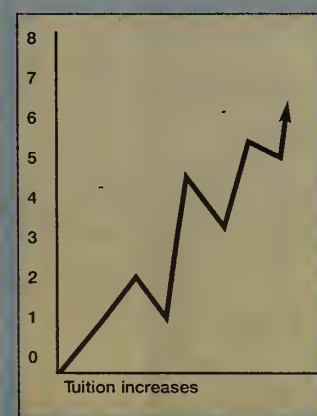
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Tragedy in Quebec

50,000 student summer jobs up for grabs

By Ray Bowe

Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, announced March 23 in Toronto that the provincial government's Summer Jobs 2000 program will create almost 50,000 new student summer jobs.

"Each year the government has set progressively higher goals for its summer jobs strategy and each year the goal has been exceeded," said Cunningham in a ministry release.

"Ontario's growing economy is benefiting young people. Since 1995, we have doubled the number of successful job searches throughout the Ontario Summer Jobs program," she said.

The provincial government is investing \$50 million into the program and they say that is close to triple what the federal government has spent in Ontario this year.

The announcement was made at the Evergreen Canoe and Kayak Company located in Toronto, a company which has participated in the summer program for the last three years.

A student employee of the company presented the minister with a paddle inscribed with 'Ontario Summer Jobs 2000.'

"Ontario Summer Jobs gave me the incentive to hire students," said Evergreen president Don Smales in the release. "The support encourages employers to take the time to train a young employee."

The summer job service includes a free job search, self-marketing services and a \$2-per-hour wage subsidy.

The program, which runs from April to September and is open to students aged 15 to 24, can also be combined with programs run by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Other affiliated programs include

"Since 1995, we have doubled the number of successful job searches throughout the Ontario Summer Jobs program."

Dianne Cunningham,
Minister of Training,
Colleges and Universities

the Student Venture program which will create 600 jobs for students starting up new businesses, and the Ontario Government Summer Student Hiring will provide 3,000 students with jobs in government agencies and ministries.

The Summer Experience program will employ 4,400 students in governmental environments including the Ontario Rangers and a job exchange program between the governments of Ontario and Quebec.

Radio station gets name

By Laura Czekaj

Conestoga College's radio station has been christened The Condor 88.3 FM, college president John Tibbits announced at the March 27 board of governors meeting.

The Centre for Communications Studies at Conestoga sponsored a contest, which was open to all students and employees at the college, to determine a suitable name for the station.

The name The Condor was submitted to the contest by two students, who will remain anonymous until details concerning the contest are finalized, said Mike Thurnell, co-ordinator of the broadcast-radio and television program.

Entries to the contest were judged for originality, marketability and good representation of the college.

Some of the names that were submitted were Unhinged Radio, Stud Radio and The Grad. Tibbits said the final decision was between The Grad and The Condor, but the latter name won because with two universities in the area The Grad wasn't distinctive.

The call letters are still being decided, however they will start with the letter C.

Call letters beginning considered are CIRP and CGER.

Hands-on learning



Robin Berrie supports the head of injured Carla Hammer during a mock accident scene staged by the paramedic program on March 23. The scene took place in the woods outside door five.
(Photo by Mike Radatus)

Co-op praised at Doon reception

By Sherri Osment

A wine and cheese reception was held at the Conestoga College Doon campus on March 22, as part of national co-op week, to recognize employers who hire co-op students and to give recognition to the students themselves.

Conestoga College president John Tibbits praised co-op programs for helping job placement and giving students a sense of what a working environment is like.

Dot Norcott, project co-ordinator for the Wellington County roads department and a graduate of Conestoga's civil engineering program, also spoke about the benefits of co-op.

Norcott said that co-op is an opportunity for students to gain confidence in the workplace as well as an opportunity for employers to see what the colleges are offering and to "benefit from the bright eager minds."

Norcott has taken on one co-op student from Conestoga and said that this is a way for her to give a little bit back to the college. Norcott's picture also appears on many of the Conestoga co-op publications.

The two Conestoga students who were nominated for the

Canadian Association for Co-operative Education student of the year award also spoke briefly at the reception about the benefits they received from co-op.

Christine Weinert, who is in the human resource management post-graduate program, said that she found co-op valuable for what she learned about herself.

Robert Brezina, a third-year mechanical engineering technology student, said his co-op placement was a wonderful experience that showed him what aspects he liked and disliked about his field.

Sandra Cocco, Conestoga College co-op adviser, said the reception was well received and the informal setting gave people a chance to do some networking after the speeches were concluded.

Throughout the week prize draws were held for students in co-op programs.

The prizes were donated by the City of Kitchener, Labatts, the Pioneer Park Plaza Zehrs, the Pioneer Park Plaza Pharma Plus and Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Prizes included a \$250 continuing education gift certificate, Dairy Queen and Tim Hortons gift vouchers, a Nintendo game and a three-month membership for the YMCA.

Two per cent better than 10

The Ontario government's decision to put a two per cent cap on tuition fees over the next five years instead of a total freeze on tuition increases is bittersweet.

Any increase is not welcome but a little is better than a lot.

Over the last five years, tuition costs have increased by 10 per cent annually.

Mike Harris, DSA vice-president of education, said even a small increase is not good but is still better than a 10 per cent increase annually.

"We were pleased to see that the tuition did not see a significant increase," Harris said.

He added that a limit set on the cost increases would help students to budget their money.

Harris also said he felt that the student voice had been heard. Ontario students lobbied MPPs through student governments and organizations such as the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association.

Tracy Boyer, executive director of OCCSPA, said that the organization is pleased that the announcement covers a long term of five years so students can plan their finances better, but they had hoped there would be no increase.

"It wasn't what we had asked for," said Boyer. "We'd asked for a freeze, so it's not the most ideal situation."

Boyer also said that she didn't think students would be angered about the two per cent increase when it could have been 10 per cent.

"I think if you went out and asked the students what they thought of that (the increase) I don't think they would be too upset."

"We see the ministry has decided to slow down the pace of tuition increases," Joel Harden, spokesman for the Canadian Federation of Students, said in a March 15 article in the Ottawa Sun.

"It still amounts to a 10 per cent increase."

A recent study by York University said that while college enrolment is up nine per cent funding is down 20 per cent.

Conestoga College's base provincial operating grant was \$19.1 million from 1997 to 1998, which is down \$6.8 million from the 1992 to 1993 grant.

According to a March 15 article in the Kitchener Record, NDP education critic Rosario Marchese noted that Ontario students now pay 35 per cent of their education costs, up from 25 per cent in 1995.

While two per cent might not seem like much of an increase, it is unreasonable to expect students to pay more for their education when the government continues to cut funding.



Collision's lesson a rough road for parents

The teddy bears and toys placed beside the white coffins are sad reminders that the eight "angels in the snow" were once breathing, cheerful children.

The March 16 mini-van collision in St-Jean-Baptiste-De-Nicolet, Que., seems so senseless.

Eight of 10 children, aged two to five, were killed when the mini-van they were riding in collided with another.

Jeanne Auger, the caregiver who ran the licensed daycare out of her home and the driver of the vehicle, lost control on a slippery road while on her way to a sugar shack with the toddlers to celebrate one of the children's birthday.

It's easy for others to pass judgment and place blame, but who isn't guilty of packing too many adults or children into their vehicles at some point?



Donna Ryves

We need to show compassion. This woman is not some monster who set out to kill kids. She was a thoughtful caregiver taking the children on an outing.

In fact, parents of the victims don't blame Auger and actually commented on how wonderful and loving she was with their children.

Accidents do happen. Before getting angry about the seat-belt aspect, consider school buses.

Children do not wear seat-belts while riding on school buses.

According to the January 1990 Transport Canada report on occupant protection, the children who ride school buses aren't strapped in because, in the event of a collision, tests show that the use of belts could result in more severe head and neck injuries.

The Quebec Highway Code requires that children under five years of age be seated in a specially adapted chair.

Nine of the 10 children in the accident were aged five or less and only one child-restraint seat was found at the accident scene.

News reports said that all the

children were wearing seat-belts, however, about three children were sharing one belt.

The law does not stipulate that each child should be provided with a seat-belt.

However, the provincial government is currently looking to change the law.

The law should be amended to insist there be a child restraint seat for all children age five and under. It should also prohibit using one seat-belt for more than one child.

Auger may have been in the wrong, but who's to say if the children were properly seated and belted that they would have survived the accident?

This tragedy provides the opportunity for all of us to reflect on the risk we take when we do not properly secure children while traveling in a car, even for short distances.

The lesson here is that we are ultimately responsible for taking all safety precautions and obeying the letter of the law.

This tragedy should be a lesson to us all.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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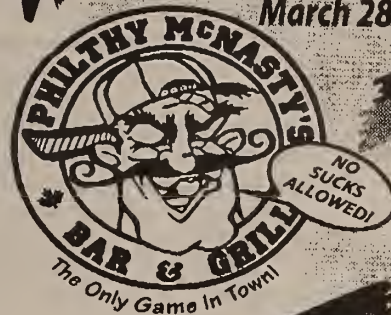
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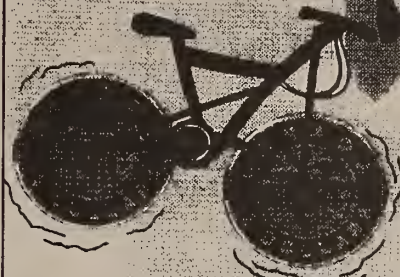
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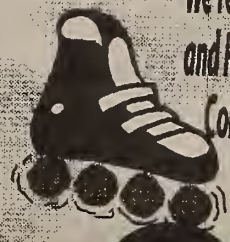
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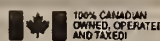


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Comedian uses colourful language to get laughs

By Mike Radatus

B.J. Woodbury wasn't clowning around when the DSA featured the comedian during a nooner March 21 in the Sanctuary.

Woodbury started his career doing clown performances for

children, hiding his face with paint.

"You have no fear when your face is hidden by paint," said Woodbury.

He said his days as a clown helped him get his foot in the door as a comedian.

At the end of March,

Woodbury, who currently works as a comedian about 250 days a year, will go on an eastern tour with a stop at the Coco Run, a festival featuring a variety of comical routines, before going out west for a month of performing.

A lot of his material contains

words some may find offensive, but Woodbury says people have to relax because it's just a joke.

During one joke he told the audience that he likes big women in bed.

"Hey, I'm a big man. Could you imagine me with a 100-pound woman?" he said.

He also told jokes about how dogs are smarter than cats because of the way they lick their balls and how people shouldn't scare kids because they'll steal cars earlier.

Woodbury got a good reaction from the crowd.

He said he really enjoys playing college shows because the audience isn't intimidated by his colourful language.

"There's a maturity where the students don't go, 'Oh, did you hear what he said?' College students can tell the difference from what is real and what is not," he said. "They realize that it's just a joke."

Despite his busy schedule he still puts on clown makeup to perform for children.

"I'm still a kid at heart," he said. "It's fun."

Woodbury showed up late for the show at the Sanctuary, but his audience didn't let that get in the way. There was a lot of laughter for jokes that were not too funny, but were said in a colourful way that made the punch line stand out.

The majority of comedians that inspire Woodbury are classics. Charlie Chaplin is on the top of his list. He said he admires Chaplin so much because he got people laughing without dialogue. Chaplin's animation, Woodbury said, is something all comedians should strive for.

"People laughed for 50 years over the things Chaplin did," he said.

Today he said Canadian comedians are all getting sucked up by the American market.

One of Woodbury's favourites, Uncle Dirty, whom Woodbury describes as being filthy, is one of the Canadian comedians who has moved to the States.

Woodbury understands the comedian's move.

"There's more money," he said.

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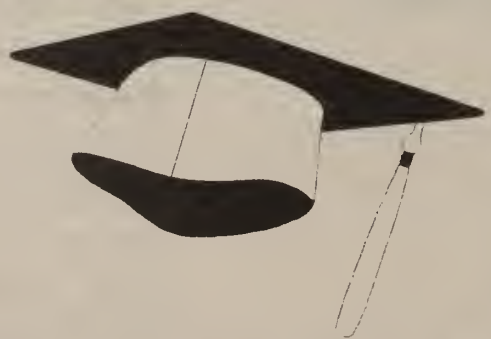
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B.J. Woodbury sports a hat given to him by the DSA after he performed in the Sanctuary March 21. (Photo by Mike Radatus)

Clarification

The story, Union prepared to strike again, in the Feb. 14 issue of Spoke said that support staff at Conestoga College are looking for wages comparable to faculty and management. In fact support staff at Conestoga College are looking for percentage increases comparable to faculty and management.



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Especially as the school year draws to a close for graduating students, it's important to make a connection with people and places outside the college. These resources can help you find an affordable home, find a car seat, baby clothes and toys, connect to counselling groups and workshops, or give a number to phone in a crisis. Specific professional support can be provided for pregnancy, alcohol and drug counselling, single parent and family supports, credit counselling, legal aid, and many other services.

If you're not sure where to go for help, just ask us. We'll help you get connected with the right people.

*A Message from Student Services
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- #4 Dersoy Sherifali
- #7 Iias (Louie) Tsatsas
- #8 Marek Idzik
- #10 Derhan Sherifali
- #11 Zlatko (Zack) Lakoseljack
- #16 Dan Shamon
- #19 Jeff Viveiros
- #21 Tarcisio (Terry) Lopes

We would also like to thank for a final time
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Guests \$12

Condors crush Koppers

By Sherri Osment

The Conestoga College women's indoor soccer league game on March 22 at the Conestoga College recreation centre ended in a 4-0 victory for the Condors against the Koppers.

The Condors are in third place in the league.

The Condors scored three goals in the first half after keeping the ball in their possession for much of the game.

Rebecca Miller scored the first goal.

The second goal was scored by Alycia Punnett. The Koppers' goalie managed to stop Punnett's first shot, but with a second kick the ball went in.

The third goal was scored by Miller before the end of the first half.

Diane Jailall scored the fourth and final goal of the game in the second half.

Condor goalie Jolene Theriault left the net several times in the last few minutes of the game, taking the ball to the Koppers' side before returning to the net.

Condors assistant coach Marlene Ford said that by the end of the game the Condors were just having fun.

"It was an easy game for the girls," Ford said.

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